

## ABSTRACT

In a base station using spatial division multiple access communications,  
different length transmissions directed from a base station to different multiple mobile  
5 devices substantially simultaneously may have their start times adjusted so that the  
transmissions end at approximately the same time. The mobile devices may then  
respond during a response period with acknowledgments at approximately the same  
time. Thus all the acknowledgments may be received within the same time period from  
the end of the transmissions, reducing the likelihood of missed acknowledgments in  
10 responses to the shorter transmissions.